

Appl. No. 09/997,778

Amdt. dated March 3, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 3, 2003

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and further consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-13, 15-18, and Claims 20-46 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the molecular sieve particles have a mean decimeter of at most 400 nm. Support for this amendment is found in several portions of the application including Claims 11 and 19. Claims 11 and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 20-22 have been amended so that they depend directly or indirectly on Claim 1.

The Office Action states that Claims 15-18 and 26-46 are allowed and that Claims 6, 11, and 19-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

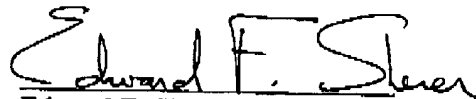
By this amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate dependent Claim 11 (as well as dependent Claim 19) into Claim 1. Since Claim 11 has been incorporated into Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that presently amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Also, since dependent Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 20-25 all depend directly or indirectly on presently amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that those claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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